

system was installed after the Second World War. The oak doors and panelling at the west end of the church were placed as a Second World War memorial.

Many other memorials may be seen in the church, including the chancel screen and the many beautiful stained glass windows.

In an area beneath the church, a space was dug out by hand in 1922 for a small chapel for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, a men's service group. This chapel was restored and rededicated in 1982.



St. Thomas' is now one of the largest Anglican parishes in Canada with a congregation of over 1500 families. It is an active parish with an outreach extending into many areas of life.

The visitor is invited to look through the church, to sign the visitor's book, and to join in the worship at St. Thomas' — The Old Garrison Church.

SOME LANDMARKS AT ST. THOMAS'

- 1836 Dedication of the church
- 1851 Side "wings" added to the building
- 1874 First extension of the church
- 1883 Second extension
- 1903 Last extension
- 1910 Installation of pipe organ
- 1922 Dedication of tubular chimes
- 1922 Dedication of St. Andrew's Chapel
- 1928 First Radio Broadcast from St. Thomas'
- 1958 Electronic chimes installed in the tower
- 1965 The old tower bell restored
- 1976 St. Thomas' School becomes the Parish Hall



St. Thomas' Church



Welcome To
The Old Garrison Church

Corner of Military Road and
Kings Bridge Road
St. John's, Newfoundland

St. Thomas' Church dates back to the year 1836, when the need was felt for a second Anglican Church in St. John's to serve the growing population in the east end of the city. An early painting of St. John's shows the original St. Thomas' as a little church with a prominent tower. This tower is the same one through which you now pass on entering the church by the west door. If you walk from the back of the church as far as pew number forty-six, you will have walked the entire length of the original building, for at this point stood the east wall of that first church. Its width extended only to the present pillars along the sides of the church. In the centre of the east wall, in common with many churches of the period, stood the pulpit, with a Communion table below. Above was a gallery. Galleries were also provided at the back and along the sides.



The Original St. Thomas'

Although the church escaped the ravages of the great fire which destroyed much of the town in 1846, a violent storm which struck in the same year is said to have moved the whole building six inches. In an effort to stabilize the structure, the wings, which characterize the present building, were added five years later.



St. Thomas' 1851 to 1873

The need for more parishioners to be accommodated led in 1874 to the lengthening of the church by some thirty feet. At the same time the east gallery and side galleries were removed. The heavy brackets, which were installed when the pillars were taken out, may still be seen. The west gallery remained, a section of which was at one time reserved for the governor's pew. The low temperatures in that part of the building were said to have led to the governor's pew being located in the front of the nave where it is still found.

The church was again enlarged in 1883 by extending the chancel and adding a vestry and additional space for the organ. The last alteration to the building was made in 1903, when the chancel was again lengthened to provide seating accommodation for over 1300.

From the opening of the church until 1870, St. Thomas' served as the Garrison Church, and the seats in the side galleries were regularly occupied by the soldiers. On the front of the west gallery, you may still see the Coat of Arms. A close look at this coat of arms will reveal that they are not the present arms, as these predate the accession of Queen Victoria, when the present ones were adopted.



St. Thomas' at the turn of the century.

For a long time many of the pews in St. Thomas' were rented, and on some of the pews the old Victorian number plates may still be seen. Many memorials are found in the church, among the oldest of which are the wall tablets, some of which date from the mid-nineteenth century. A set of tubular chimes, which are still used, was placed in the tower as a memorial following the First World War, and an electronic chime